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THE WHITE HOUSE

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Vietnam

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June 28, 1963
DATE

SIT TO 26

FROM: Forrestal

TO: McGeorge Bundy IN LONDON (For delivery to Mr. Bundy when convenient Sunday)

INFO:

CITE: CAP63351

You may wish suggest to President that during his interview with Pope Paul he express concern at tragic situation which has developed in South Vietnam between GVN and Buddhists with view to stimulating Vatican intercession where appropriate.

FYI: Although GVN reached truce agreement with Buddhists two weeks ago, situation remains tense with suspicion on both sides that agreement will not be honored. Since we do not know precisely how such intercession might be accomplished (through Diem's brother, who is Archbishop of Hue or otherwise) and since we recognize delicacy this type of approach, if you or President have any reservations, matter should not be pressed. Hilsman concurs.

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By SF NARA. Date 9/29/1